

REMARKS

Claims 3-7, 10, 13, 14 and 16-18, 20 and 23 are now in the application. Claims 3-5, 10, 13-14 and 20 and 23 are directed to the elected invention. Claims 6, 7 and 16-18 are drawn to non-elected invention and may be canceled by the Examiner upon the allowance of the claims directed to the elected invention. The indication that claim 23 contains allowable subject matter is hereby noted.

Claim 23 has been amended to place it in independent form by including recitations from prior claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 1, 11, 19 and 21-22 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 3-6 have been amended to depend from claim 23 in place of claim 1. The amendments to the claims do not introduce any new matter or raise any new issues.

The rejections of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 02/090619 to Hartwig et al; of Claims 3-4, 10 and 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO03/56062 to Gonzalez and of Claims 1, 3-5, 10, 13-14 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,312,812 to Hauser et al. in view of WO 03/56062 to Gonzalez have been rendered moot by the amendment placing claim 23 in independent form and having all of the pending elected claims ultimately depend from claim 23. Claim 23 was not subject to these rejections. As stated in the office action, claim 23 was merely objected to and was deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim from which such depended.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

In the event that the Examiner believes that another interview would serve to advance the prosecution of this application, the undersigned is available at the number noted below.

Please charge any fee that is due with this response to our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21581-00313-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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